

A TEXT BOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY, by M. Foster, M.A., M.D., F.R.S., Cambridge; with illustrations; second edition, revised and enlarged; 1878. London: McMillan & Co. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

This work was favorably received from the first, and the present edition, issued so soon after the first, is evidence of increased and increasing favor. It is fully abreast of the most recent advances in this important subject. A large section of the work is devoted to the discussion of the contractile tissues and the vascular mechanism. Digestion and respiration are also treated of in a most exhaustive manner. Other subjects, such as blood, secretions, nervous and glandular systems, are not discussed as fully as the above mentioned, but they are all treated of in a thoroughly original and practical manner. The book is one which we can fully recommend as a work of reference for the student and practitioner.

THE SOURCE OF MUSCULAR POWER. By Austin Flint, Jr. M. D., Prof. of Physiology in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

The author in this little brochure of about 100 pages octavo, gives arguments and conclusions drawn from his own observations, and those of others, upon the human subject under conditions of rest and of muscular exercise. In the introductory chapter he combats the statement of Dr. Pavy in the LANCET for Nov. 25th 1876; "That food may be looked upon, not simply as so much ponderable matter, but as matter holding locked-up force, and that by the play of changes occurring in the body the force becomes liberated, and is manifested as muscular action, nervous action, assimilation, secretory or nutritive action, etc." He then treats of the nutrition and development of muscular tissue, and its relation to the elimination of nitrogen. He gives the experiments of Liebig, Lehman, Fick and Wislicenus, and Parkes; also the experiments of Dr. Pavy and himself on Weston the pedestrian, during his feats of walking, and concludes that food is not directly converted into force in the living body, nor is it a source of muscular power, except that it maintains the muscular system in a proper condition for it.

HOW WE RAISED OUR BABY: By a Benedict.

This is a most interesting and instructive book. In the form of a novel it gives in a most attractive style, important and valuable rules and suggestions

for the care of infants. It bears internal evidence of having been written by a medical man, and many if not all the statements contained in it, will be fully endorsed by the medical profession in Canada. It is cleverly written and cannot fail to interest, amuse and instruct. The busy bodies and old nurses "whose only recommendation is that they have raised a large family of children themselves," come in for a fair share of attention. The author's idea is, to educate women for nurses, pay them living wages, and hold them responsible. Every mother should read this book, and every father too, as on the thread of the story is strung a large amount of useful and practical information, not only what to do but how to do it.

AMERICAN EDITION OF FARQUHARSON'S GUIDE TO THERAPEUTICS. New York: H. C. Lea. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

We have much pleasure in introducing to the profession a very useful and compendious little work entitled a "Guide to Therapeutics and Materia Medica, by Dr. Robert Farquharson, lecturer on Materia Medica at St. Mary's Hospital: The volume, although small in bulk—which by the way we consider a great recommendation both to the busy practitioner and student—treats on the general actions, therapeutical and physiological of medicinal agents. By a convenient arrangement, the corresponding effects in health and disease of each drug are represented in parallel columns, thus rendering reference easier, and impressing facts strongly on the minds of the reader. The first chapters devoted to rules for prescribing combination of drugs, form of administration, proper time for exhibition, dosage, intervals between doses, individual peculiarities, idiosyncrasy, constitutional or toxic effect from small doses, chemical and physiological incompatibilities, prescribing for children, prescription writing, weights and measures, observations upon doses, general rules for doses. As before remarked the balancing of the therapeutic action with the physiological is arranged by corresponding columns in diagrammatic form, having regard to external action, influence on the brain and spinal and sympathetic system of nerves, on the heart and blood vessels, on respiration and temperature, on alterations of secretion in the order, urinary, intestinal, salivary and cutaneous. The various modes of elimination from body, antidotes, contra-indication, best modes of prescribing, and illustrated prescriptions. Dr. Farquharson says on the subject of balancing the physiological against the therapeutic action of a drug, that it cannot always be accurately done either from want of sufficient knowledge or from an excess of facts more or less of a conflicting nature. "We must remember that our therapeutical evidence is derived from clinical observation on man, and that experi-